

by his family, friends and community. I would like to take this moment to thank Al for his service, his sacrifice, and his steadfast devotion to the great state of New Mexico and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING JACK D. BALLARD
AND THE U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, all of us who work on Capitol Hill owe a tremendous debt to the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police. One of my constituents, Jack D. Ballard of Greenbrier County, wrote to me to share some of his own memories and about the friendships he forged during his tenure on the force of Capitol Hill's finest. His late father, Leonard H. Ballard Jr., who retired as an inspector after 38 years on the force instructed Jack that, "on Capitol Hill, you can be struck by lightning when there isn't a cloud in the sky." That's sound advice from a seasoned voice for everyone on the Hill.

Jack worked with many fellow West Virginians during his tenure on Capitol Hill, including Emery "Bud" Aliff, Donald Shumate, Jimmie Young, Lenvil Young, Charles Farmer, William Harrah, William Hall, and Lt. Colonel Jervis. Jack found a common trait among these West Virginians, they all worked together to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, we all ought to celebrate that common thread of the "can do" spirit that weaves throughout the hills of West Virginia and throughout our Nation. It is a trait that has and can continue to serve our Nation well.

RECOGNIZING BROWN'S CIGAR
STORE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brown's Cigar Store on its 125th anniversary. Located in the historic Gaffer District of Corning, New York, Brown's Cigar Store has proudly served the community since 1889.

Brown's Cigar Store is locally owned and operated by the Smith family. As experienced tobacconists, Sue, Terry, and Bejay Smith use their knowledge and expertise to carry on the strong, time honored tradition of tobacconist culture.

At the turn of the twentieth century, local patrons would visit Brown's to get a haircut, purchase a steamship ticket, and converse about the latest news. Although the products and services have changed over the years, the sense of camaraderie remains as strong today as when the store first opened its doors to the Corning community. Today, the store offers its guests the opportunity to step back in time, to an era when friends and neighbors would gather to discuss family, sports, politics, and national news. Patrons of Brown's experience a warm and friendly atmosphere, where the

finest tobacco products and friendliest smiles are always in stock.

I once again congratulate Brown's Cigar Store on 125 years of success. As a small family-owned business in my home town, I am proud to recognize this impressive milestone.

HONORING STEPHANIE ARTHUR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Ms. Stephanie A. Arthur, MPA for her dedication to advocacy and working to improve access for members of the African community in New York.

Stephanie Arthur is the Founder of the African Leadership Project, which is a civic training organization that provides a leadership pipeline for various professions. The overarching goal of the African Leadership Project is to foster and develop the talent of individuals within African communities, and match these individuals to key leadership opportunities throughout the community.

Ms. Arthur is a very accomplished individual. She is an alumna of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University, The White House Project, Eleanor's Legacy, Coro Leadership Center of New York, and the Center for American Women and Politics. Having gained tremendous experience and knowledge of the political realm over the years, Ms. Arthur has worked on several high-profile elections ranging across all levels of government, and is respected as a grassroots activist across the nation. As a first generation Ghanaian-American and important voice in the African Diaspora, Ms. Arthur has continuously taken her many acquired skills and used them to amplify the voice of the African community at large.

Today, Stephanie Arthur serves as the political strategist and Founder of S. Arthur Group, LLC, which is a boutique public affairs and government relations consultancy. Ms. Arthur continues to be a fierce advocate for immigrant rights, for the advancement of criminal justice policy, for gender equality, and for many other social justice issues that are important to all of our community's residents.

Ms. Arthur's dedication to working with civic organizations, individuals, and figures in public office speaks to her natural ability to build coalition of support for issues that matter to all of us, and it is this dedication and ability to lead that makes her such a valuable asset in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Stephanie Arthur for her consistently remarkable dedication to public service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JULIAN CROCKER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the outstanding

public service of Dr. Julian Crocker, longtime educator, superintendent and public servant. Julian plans to retire this January after fifty years as a scholastic leader, a fixture of the San Luis Obispo County public school system.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Julian matriculated at Vanderbilt University and joined the United States Army shortly after graduating. On the completion of his term of service, Captain Crocker settled in sunny San Mateo, California in 1964, where he began to teach high school. Julian also earned a doctorate in Educational Administration from Harvard University in 1972, and upon returning to San Mateo, was appointed principal.

A renaissance man to the core, Julian recognized early in his career that education represented only the last, most public component of childhood development. All his professional life, he strove to unite broad coalitions of businesses, nonprofits and local government offices to improve housing and medical care for young and poor children.

Julian spent twenty one years as superintendent of different school districts in California—in San Mateo, Palo Alto and eventually Paso Robles. In 1999, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo, in which capacity he has worked ever since. Under his tenure, San Luis Obispo expanded its charter school system, enlarged its English proficiency program, and founded the Grizzly Academy—an innovative boarding school for at-risk youth—in partnership with the California National Guard. These are but a few of his many accomplishments on behalf of his community.

Julian acquired a wealth of experience and knowledge from his years of service, a foundation of wisdom which I have often relied upon throughout the years, either by seeking his counsel directly or in meeting him and other County Superintendents to discuss educational needs on the Central Coast. I could always count on straight talk and sound advice—advice I took back with me to the halls of Congress.

In fact, in his office, Julian kept a framed quotation above his desk—one of my favorite Presidential quotes as it happens, from one of my favorite presidents: Theodore Roosevelt. It reads: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly . . ." Julian's arena has been the classroom, where he has lived that phrase, educating our students, expanding our curriculum, fighting to ensure students have the resources they need.

In this next chapter of his life, I know Julian is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Donna, his children, and his six grandchildren. While the next County Superintendent of Schools for San Luis Obispo has large shoes to fill and Julian's presence will be missed, I know he will always remain involved on the issues important to him. I thank Julian for his friendship and counsel, and his leadership to improve education in California, and wish him and Donna all the best.